

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A program-signal recording and reproducing apparatus comprising:

5 first means for recording a program signal on a recording medium;

second means for reproducing the program signal from the recording medium;

10 third means for generating first time information in accordance with lapse of time;

fourth means for generating second time information from the program signal reproduced by the second means, the second time information representing one of (1) a time at which the program signal was recorded by the first means and (2) a time at which the
15 program signal was broadcasted; and

fifth means for superimposing on-screen information on the program signal reproduced by the second means, the on-screen information representing (1) a picture portion indicative of a time, (2) a first mark positionally corresponding to the first time
20 information generated by the third means, and (3) a second mark positionally corresponding to the second time information generated by the fourth means. -

2. A program-signal recording and reproducing apparatus as
25 recited in claim 1, wherein the first means comprises means for recording the first time information generated by the third means

on the recording medium as the second time information together with the program signal.

3. A program-signal recording and reproducing apparatus for
5 recording a program signal on a recording medium, and reproducing an already-recorded portion of the program signal which is being recorded on the recording medium, the apparatus comprising:

time information generating means for generating time
10 information in accordance with lapse of time;

recording means for recording the time information generated by the time information generating means or time information indicating time at which the program signal is
15 broadcasted on the recording medium together with the program signal;

a head retrieval command input means for performing a program head retrieval command; and

first head retrieval reproduction means for, when the program head retrieval command is performed by the head retrieval
20 command input means, obtaining present time information generated by the time information generating means and performing head retrieval reproduction of the program signal recorded at time of 00-minute or 30-minute in an hour which is previous to the present time represented by the obtained present
25 time information.

4. A program-signal recording and reproducing apparatus as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

a cache playback mode in which a program signal temporally continuous from past to now is always recorded on a recording

5 medium while a prescribed amount is a limit, and an already-recorded portion of the program signal which is being recorded is reproduced;

a time shift playback mode in which, with respect to a program signal recorded on the recording medium on the basis of a
10 record start timing decided by operation by a user, and an already-recorded portion of the program signal which is being recorded is reproduced; and

second head retrieval reproduction means for, when the program head retrieval command is performed by the head retrieval
15 command input means, performing head retrieval reproduction of the program signal from the record start timing;

wherein the head retrieval reproduction is performed by the first head retrieval reproduction means in the cache playback mode, and the head retrieval reproduction is performed by the second
20 head retrieval reproduction means in the time shift playback mode.

5. A program-signal recording and reproducing apparatus comprising:

first means for recording a program signal on a recording
25 medium;

second means for generating first time information

representing the present time;

third means for generating second time information
representing one of (1) a time at which the program signal was
recorded by the first means and (2) a time at which the program
5 signal was broadcasted;

fourth means for determining a specified time point which
precedes the present time represented by the first time
information generated by the second means; and

fifth means for finding a segment of the program signal on the
10 recording medium according to the specified time point
determined by the fourth means and the second time information
generated by the third means, the program-signal segment relating
to the second time information corresponding to the specified time
point, and for reproducing the found segment and subsequent
15 segments of the program signal from the recording medium.

6. A program-signal recording and reproducing apparatus as
recited in claim 5, wherein the specified time point corresponds to
time whose minute part is 00.
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7. A program-signal recording and reproducing apparatus as
recited in claim 5, wherein the specified time point corresponds to
time whose minute part is 30.

25 8. A program-signal recording and reproducing apparatus
comprising:

first means for recording a first program signal on a recording medium while leaving only a latest temporally-continuous portion of the first program signal in the recording medium as a cached portion;

5 second means for generating first time information representing the present time;

third means for generating second time information representing one of (1) a time at which the first program signal was recorded by the first means and (2) a time at which the first
10 program signal was broadcasted;

fourth means for determining a specified time point which precedes the present time represented by the first time information generated by the second means;

fifth means for accepting a head-retrieval command;
15 sixth means responsive to the head-retrieval command accepted by the fifth means for finding a segment of the latest temporally-continuous portion of the first program signal on the recording medium according to the specified time point determined by the fourth means and the second time information
20 generated by the third means, the program-signal segment relating to the second time information corresponding to the specified time point, and for reproducing the found segment and subsequent segments of the program signal from the recording medium during a cache playback mode of operation;

25 seventh means for recording a second program signal on the recording medium in response to a designated record start timing;

and

 eighth means responsive to the head-retrieval command
accepted by the fifth means for reproducing the second program
signal from the recording medium during a time shift playback
5 mode of operation.

9. A program-signal recording and reproducing apparatus as
recited in claim 8, wherein the specified time point corresponds to
time whose minute part is 00.

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10. A program-signal recording and reproducing apparatus as
recited in claim 8, wherein the specified time point corresponds to
time whose minute part is 30.